



# Sustainability Report

**2023 UPDATE**

# ACS SUSTAINABILITY Strategy

Here at ACS we take our environmental responsibilities very seriously and understand for a positive change to happen everyone needs to take action and businesses have a significant part to play.

We try to limit our environmental impact as a business and are doing everything we can to reduce and offset our carbon emissions. Sustainability is at the core of everything we do, we listen to our customers and work very closely with our supply chain to ensure we are positioned at the environmental forefront of our industry.

Our journey to Net Zero began in 2021 when we established 5 main sustainability goals for our business to strive toward. We chose these specific objectives as we felt they were measurable and although they are ambitious, we believe ACS has the passion to successfully achieve them. Being transparent about our progress will hopefully demonstrate our commitment and focus to doing everything we possibly can to be a sustainable business.

Throughout 2022 we have made great progress against our goals and even successfully completed Goal 3 – Self-generated onsite energy.



# OUR GOALS

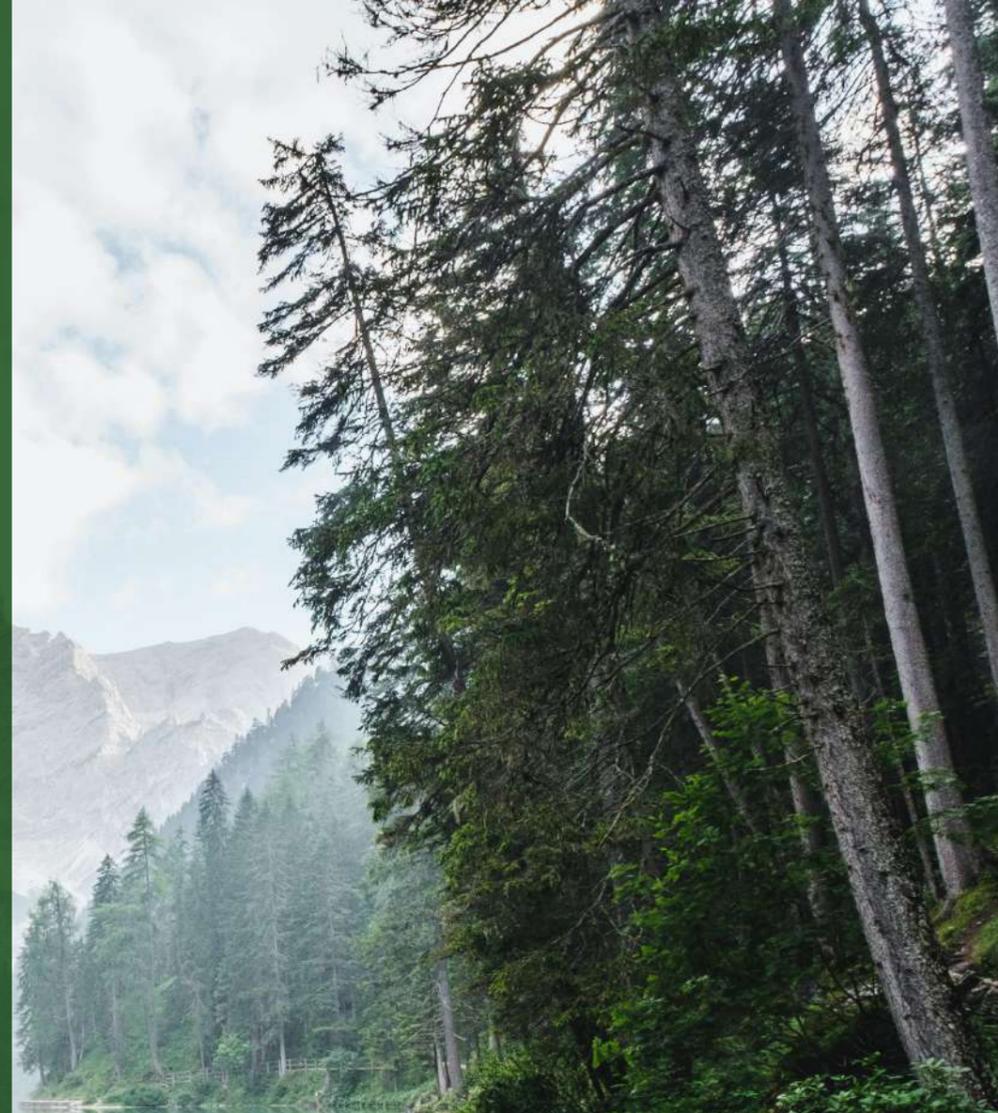
1. Net Zero by **2030**
2. £250,000 investment into sustainable initiatives by **2024**
3. All-electric company vehicle fleet by **2025**

New Goal!

4. Lower customer emissions by reducing small orders within contracted accounts by 50% throughout **2023**

New Goal!

5. Help raise awareness of the **721** challenge  
**A RACE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE**



## COMPLETED GOAL!

Self-generated onsite energy, reducing Scope 2 emissions by **2024**

**42% of ACS energy usage is now self-generated onsite.**



ACS has successfully attained the PAS2060 standard and is currently making progress towards obtaining certification for the second year – the only internationally recognised standard for carbon neutrality, this will officially recognise our organisation’s climate efforts and clearly indicate, with evidence, the aspects of our activities that are proven to be carbon neutral. Being part of PAS 2060 is a continuous commitment to our corporate social responsibility and a clear, verified proof of our fight against climate change.



# GOAL 1 Net Zero by 2030



## 2021 vs 2022 Emissions

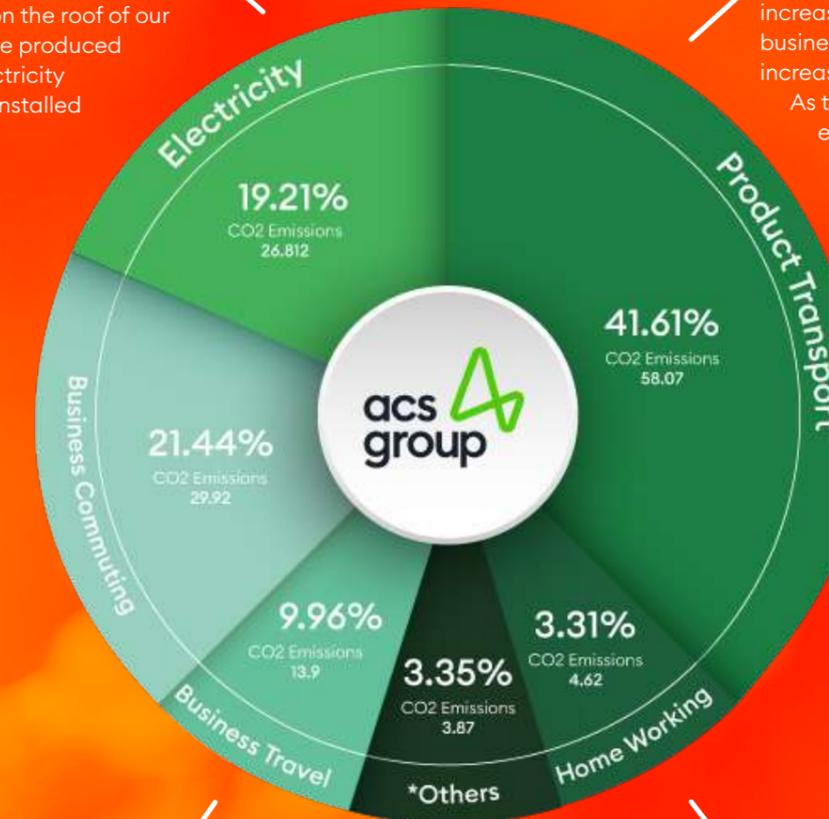
We have analysed our carbon emissions in relation to turnover from the baseline year to give a more accurate representation of our progress.

Overall ACS' carbon emissions have increased by 9%, however we are still very encouraged by these results, due to the fact the business grew by 35% during the same period.

	2021	2022
<b>Carbon Emissions</b>	<b>127.47<sup>t</sup></b>	<b>139.56<sup>t</sup></b>
<b>Turnover</b>	<b>£26.2m</b>	<b>£35m</b>
<b>CO2e per Million</b>	<b>5.06</b>	<b>3.99</b>

## ACS 2022 emissions 139.559t Co2e

ACS' Scope 2 emissions have fallen by 41% from 46.13t to 26.81t. Solar panels located on the roof of our Head Office have produced 23,175kwh of electricity since they were installed in July. This also reduces ACS' reliance on the national grid by 42%.



Product Transport emissions have increased by 16%, however as our business has grown by 35% this slight increase was to be expected. As this remains our largest source of emissions we will work closely with our supply stream to reduce this total.

Increase in business travel emissions due to lifting of Covid restrictions.

GHG Conversion factors now allows ACS to measure homeworking emissions which have been included this year.

\*Others includes the following figures: Electricity transmissions and distribution losses, Hotel stays, Public transport, Water/Waste water, Waste.

## What does scope 1, 2 & 3 mean?

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol Corporate Standard classifies a company's GHG emissions into three scopes.

- Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. e.g: business travel.
- Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. e.g: electricity consumption.
- Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in Scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company. These include both upstream and downstream emissions, such as product deliveries.

# GOAL 2

£250,000 investment into sustainable initiatives by 2024

## Solar Panels

ACS Group have recently installed 220 solar panels on the roof of Kismet Buildings and our now fully functional self-generated energy will reduce ACS' requirements on the national grid by around 42% helping us get closer to our "Net Zero by 2030" goal.

## Offsetting

ACS will be offsetting our 2022 emissions through The Woodland Carbon Code (WCC). The WCC is the quality assurance standard for woodland creation projects in the UK and generates independently verified carbon units. Backed by the Government, forest industry and carbon market experts, the Code is unique in providing woodland carbon units right here in the UK.

**£195k**  
Invested so far!



**Tom Taylor**  
Sustainability Manager

Tom was appointed Sustainability Manager at ACS in January 2022. He works closely with all areas of ACS' supply chain to ensure ACS are taking advantage of environmental advancements in the industry.

His role involves developing and implementing sustainability strategies, monitoring environmental advancements that align with ACS' goals, conducting ESG assessments of the business to ensure best practice and engaging with stakeholders to ensure ACS' efforts align with customer expectations and industry standards.

## Electric Bikes

ACS have invested in two electric bikes for local visits and travel. These bikes will be available for all staff members to use and will not only reduce small car journeys but also help with health and wellbeing.

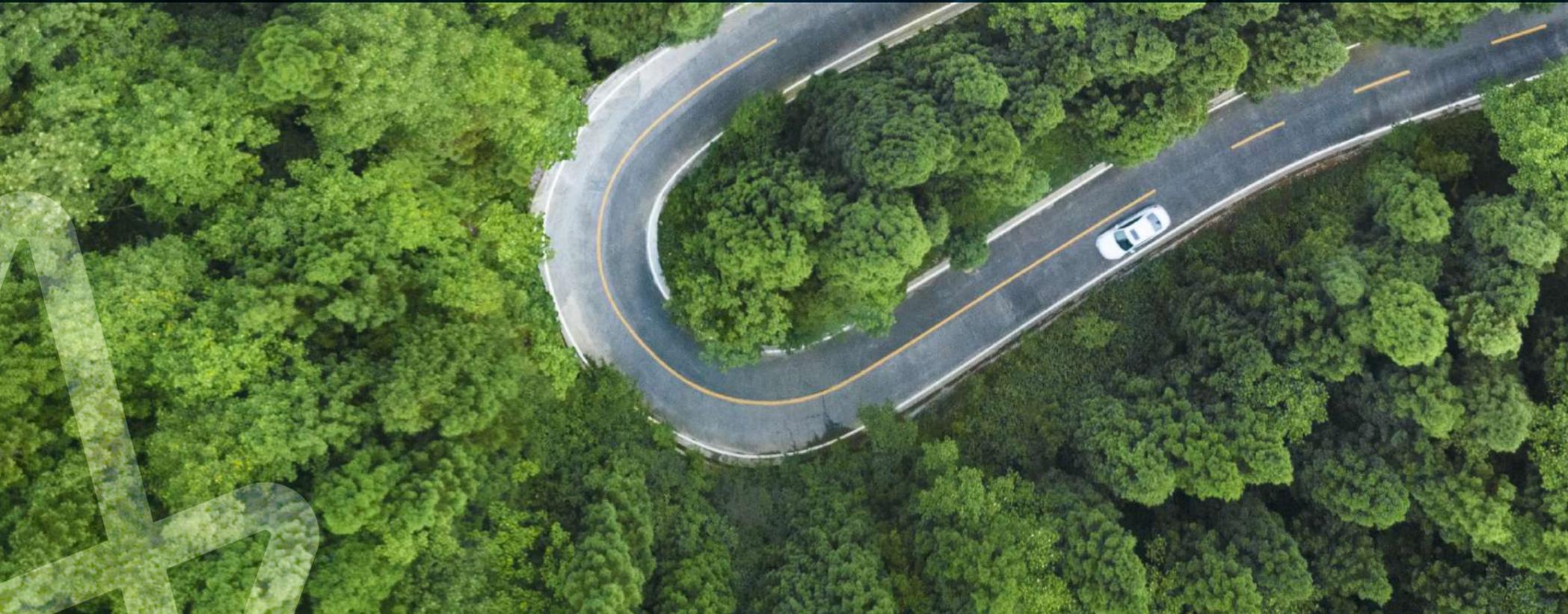
## Other ways we have invested in Sustainability

- Electric car charger in our car park
- Warehouse cardboard recycling machine
- Replacing all liquid consumables at ACS Head Office with glass refillables

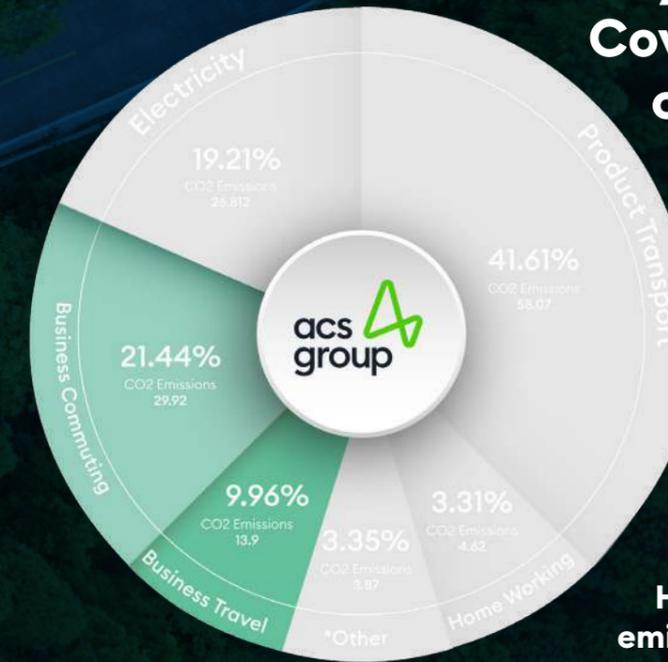
# GOAL 3

## All-electric company vehicle fleet by 2025

ACS' company car fleet is now 48% electric; this is an increase of 22% from 2021. We aim to increase this to 75% by the end of 2023 and then 100% by the end of 2024.



**ACS have seen an increase in business travel from the baseline year of 240%, this is due to the lifting of Covid restrictions and the changes within our business.**



With growing divisions such as Interiors, Managed Print and IT there is a greater requirement to have an onsite presence with customers.

Business Commuting has also seen an increase from the baseline year, ACS have introduced a car share scheme once a month and are working on public transport incentives to help combat this.

**Having an all-electric car fleet will reduce both business travel emissions and also commuting emissions.**



# GOAL 4

## Lower customer emissions

Reduce small orders within contracted accounts **by 50% throughout 2023**

### ACS £30 Club

The ACS £30 Club is an initiative designed to encourage customers to consolidate deliveries into their sites. ACS demonstrates to the customer the amount of emissions associated with small value orders placed. We explain how we calculate the Co2e and quantify the emissions in everyday terms. This helps the customer understand and visualise the impact consolidating deliveries can have on reducing emissions.

**We then apply a minimum order value relevant to their business.**



## Additional ways we **support customers**

### Green office supplies

We have completely revamped our 'Green List'. Having previously relied on our suppliers knowledge and advice to create a selection of around 1,500 green products, we have now decided to do the research internally. Our green list now contains 900 office products that meet ACS' higher threshold to be categorised as an environmentally-friendly option compared to alternatives.

### Removing all single-use plastics

We have identified a list of single-use plastic items and by working closely with our suppliers we have removed these from our catalogue and replaced them with more environmentally-friendly alternatives. Although legislation is currently only in place in Scotland, ACS wanted to ensure all single-use plastics were removed from catalogues prior to the legislation being released across England and Wales.

### Dedicated environmental account reviews

Standard account reviews now include the option for the customer to arrange an environmental review. This review is to analyse the account as a whole and review where ACS can help with improved environmental procurement. This is also an opportunity to discuss the customers' own sustainability objectives and plan together how we can support them in achieving their goals.

### Sustainable product ranges

ACS Group is made up of five different divisions, Office, IT, Interiors, Managed Print and Print. Within each division we work hard to find sustainable ranges to make sure our customers have the best selection of products available to them.

From environmentally-friendly fabrics and upcycled pieces in our Interiors division, to sustainable printing solutions in our Managed Print division, we make sure we are always reviewing our sustainability offering for our customers and updating our eco ranges accordingly.

# GOAL 5

Help raise awareness of the 721 challenge  
– a race against climate change



**Nick Hollis is an international mountaineer who's seen our impact on the natural world first-hand.**

Nick has set himself the world record of the 721 Challenge, which will see him climb the seven summits, ski the North and South poles and row the Atlantic Ocean in world record speed. He has already climbed the highest mountain on every continent, completing the 7 summits, and completed the South Pole. He now has two more challenges to go in his race. When he's finished, he'll be the 4th British person to have ever completed the 3 poles, which includes Mount Everest.

Nick's experiences throughout the 721 challenge have inspired him to place environmental responsibility and sustainability at the heart of what he does, including campaigning and fundraising for the World Land Trust.

To support Nick directly  
scan QR code.



CHALLENGE COMPLETE

## THE 7 HIGHEST SUMMITS IN THE WORLD

The Seven Summits challenge sees climbers tackle the world's highest peaks located on each of the 7 continents, and is a major mountaineering achievement. Nick has already completed the challenge, finishing on the summit of Mount Everest at the end of May 2019.



## SKIING TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES

The North and South Poles are still one of the frontiers of major expedition. The extreme conditions make them a monumental challenge and an extreme physical and mental challenge. Nick will be skiing the North Pole Final Degree and the South Pole full route.



## THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST OCEAN ROW

The Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge is known as the world's toughest row, and has become the world's most anticipated ocean rowing event. The challenge takes more than 3,000 miles, starting from the Canary Islands and finishing in Antigua & Barbuda. It involves a relentless cycle of rowing for 2 hours, and sleeping for 2 hours, constantly, 24 hours a day.

# ACS Group Ambassador

After hearing about Nick's 721 challenge and his pure determination to do whatever he can to help fight climate change, we felt that Nick's values aligned closely with our own and wanted to be part of his efforts. We hope to help by raising awareness of his message and his aim to raise money for the conservation of our precious rainforests.

*"The 721 vision is to create a platform of optimism to encourage individuals and companies to make simple changes in how they operate to reduce their impact on our world. ACS are the embodiment of this vision."*

**-Nick Hollis**

Acting as an ACS Group Ambassador, Nick will utilise the 721 project as a means to share latest thinking and knowledge, helping our continued progress towards achieving our Net Zero goal.

After working in our industry at a world leading manufacturer for 10 years, Nick will be able to bring his business experience together with his passion for sustainability to help us overcome our challenges and improve our industries environmental focus.



## Schools saving rainforest

**An education and fundraising project helping save the world's most threatened habitats**

Part of Nick's purpose is to educate children about the importance of the fight against climate change. Working with The World Land Trust he has launched the 'schools saving rainforest' initiative, where children are able to rescue an area of the rainforest the same size as their school. All funds raised will go towards the expansion of a nature reserve protecting a unique habitat under threat. It's a great cause and children involved can learn about the nature they are protecting and feel proud to make a real difference to our environmental impact.

**ACS will pledge 10% of the funds needed by any ACS education customer who takes up the fundraising challenge**

*"Saving primary rainforest is one of the most important things we can do to combat climate change"*

**- Nick Hollis**



Find out how you can get involved



## World Land Trust has Funded



The Protection of  
**2,658,367**  
Acres

Co-Funded a Further  
**3,167,858**  
Acres

The Planting of  
**2,715,402**  
Trees

The Protection of over  
**11,617**  
Species

# ACS' SUPPLY CHAIN



## How does our **supply chain work?**

### **Our Manufacturers**

Over the last few years ACS have gained feedback from our customer base to help manufacturers understand the environmental requirements, in turn ACS have shared details of new greener ranges to customers as soon as they become available. The IT industry has seen a large shift towards more eco-friendly products with the introduction of refurbished options extending the lifespan of hardware.

### **Distributors and Wholesalers**

ACS continue to push our main distributors to move towards more eco-friendly delivery methods. Product transport accounts for 41% of ACS' total emissions and this is an area we feel more can be done. Quarterly distributor reviews keep ACS up to date with any changes or advancements in product transportation. Packaging is constantly under review with all of our main distributors and wholesalers, as we work to ensure a reduction in plastic packaging across our entire supply chain.

### **Customers**

ACS' big focus for 2023 is to help our customers reduce their own carbon footprint. New recycling schemes have been introduced to customers, including IT hardware asset disposal. And through regular customer environmental reviews we get a good understanding of purchasing trends, allowing ACS to offer greener solutions. We ask customers to share their own green objectives and goals, so we can work with manufacturers and distributors to make sure we are supporting them as much as we can with their own environmental initiatives.

**As the intermediary within our supply chain, we strive to drive suppliers towards adopting greener processes and expand their range of environmentally-friendly products. We value feedback from all sectors of the supply chain, as it helps ensure that our industry is actively safeguarding the environment.**



Based in Yorkshire, ACS Group are a B2B business working with all types of customers in both public and private sectors throughout the UK.

With expert knowledge across a number of specialist divisions, we provide businesses with the tools and technology they need to work productively.



Scan to view our  
website

Here are a few ways each division plays their part in our  
**sustainability journey ...**



office

**Delivering workplace solutions to our customers, wherever and however they work.**

ACS Office has taken a proactive step in sustainability by eliminating all single-use plastics from our product lineup. Additionally, we have introduced sustainable ranges to assist customers in minimising our ecological footprint.



print

**Fast, professional quality when you need it most, coupled with trusted + reliable account management, so you can print with confidence.**

ACS Print aim to print in the most environmentally friendly way possible, from using vegetable-based inks to sourcing paper stock from sustainably managed forests.



IT

**Experts in technology providing the right services, products and support to your business.**

ACS IT provides comprehensive IT asset disposal services to customers, guaranteeing that outdated hardware can be either repurposed or recycled entirely.



interiors.

**Interior specialists creating productive and inviting workspaces for the modern workplace.**

ACS Interiors offers eco-friendly fabrics for furniture installations and re-upholstery. They also specialise in upcycling old office furniture for a more sustainable approach to interior design.



managed print

**Taking care of your entire print environment, so you can take care of business.**

ACS Managed Print presents a diverse selection of energy-efficient printing solutions, enabling customers to minimise their printing waste and enhance sustainability practices.

# Our Impact

Our sustainability strategy underpins our wider purpose of having a beneficial influence in all areas of our business. This starts with our employees where we do everything we possibly can to have a positive impact from the inside out.

## Employee Engagement

Supporting and nurturing our staff is so important to us, and that's why as our business has evolved, so has our approach to employee engagement. We feel that giving our staff respect, recognition and the chance to be heard, are all key to being able to fulfil this - as well as a few little perks, including:

Wellbeing day – one afternoon off a month in addition to annual leave

An exercise hour per week

Anniversary celebrations

Recognition Awards

Training and progression

## Community

Supporting our community and local businesses is so important to us and our goal is to build our reputation as the local business with a big heart. From ordering our milk from the farmer up the road (literally!) to partnering with the local council on community initiatives, here are just a few of the ways we give back and support our local area...

Support local scheme – partnering with local businesses to offer ACS employees exclusive promotions

Opening up one of our meeting rooms for a local Book Club

Volunteering days

Collecting for local food and clothing banks

Partnering with the local council

Registered defibrillator outside our main office



## Charity

Our unwavering commitment has seen us raise a staggering £140k over the years for various charities, from trekking Macchu Pichu and taking on the Yorkshire Warrior to the many, many bake sales along the way.

With 2023 being our 15th anniversary of trading we have set ourselves a target to raise £15,000 for our partner charities – we plan to do this through:

Donating 5p from every order

Employee salary sacrifice scheme

Fundraising events

Employee lottery

## Academy

We believe in nurturing homegrown talent, which is why over our 15 years of trading we have trained and hired over 30 apprentices in total. **Our apprentices have gone on to undertake the following roles within ACS:**

Web Developer

Account Manager

Tech Engineer

Purchasing Assistant

Stock Controller

Marketing & Events Assistant



And not forgetting our most popular member of staff, our office dog Frosty



View our Impact Report here

*“In my lifetime, I have witnessed a terrible decline. In yours, you could, and should witness a wonderful recovery”*

Sir David Attenborough



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